

move the previous question on the resolution.

The previous question was ordered.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF BILLS TO BE CONSIDERED UNDER SUSPENSION OF THE RULES ON WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 1998

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to the notice requirements of House Resolution 544, I announce that the following bills will be considered under suspension on Wednesday, September 23, 1998:

H.R. 2000, AK Native Claims; H.R. 4068, Native American Tech. Changes; H.R. 2314, Kickapoo Tribe; S. 1279, Indian Employment; H.R. 1481, Great Lakes; H.R. 1659, Mount St. Helens Monument; H.R. 3381, Gallatin Land Consolidation; H.R. 2223, Education Land Grant Act; H. Res. 144, Lewis & Clark; S. 1355, Lee Courthouse; H.R. 3598, White Federal Building; H.R. 1756, Money Laundering & Financial Crimes; H.R. 4005, Money Laundering Deterrence; H.R. 4244, Federal Procurement; H.R. 4283, Africa Seeds of Hope; H.R. 633, State Department Agents Retirement (GOV too); H. Res. 505, Pacific Islands; H. Con. Res. 315, Kosovo; H.R. 4558, Welfare Tech. Amends (Commerce too); H.R. 4017, Energy Conservation Reauthorization

NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE SYSTEM VOLUNTEER AND COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP ENHANCEMENT ACT OF 1997

Mr. SAXTON. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take from the Speaker's table the bill (H.R. 1856) to amend the Fish and Wildlife Act of 1956 to direct the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a volunteer pilot project at one national wildlife refuge in each United States Fish and Wildlife Service region, and for other purposes, with Senate amendments thereto, and concur in the Senate amendments.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The Clerk read the Senate amendments, as follows:

Senate amendments:

Strike out all after the enacting clause and insert:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "National Wildlife Refuge System Volunteer and Community Partnership Enhancement Act of 1998".

SEC. 2. FINDINGS AND PURPOSES.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds that—

(1) the National Wildlife Refuge System (referred to in this Act as the "System"), consisting of more than 500 refuges and 93,000,000 acres, plays an integral role in the protection of the natural resources of the United States;

(2) the National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act of 1997 (Public Law 105-57; 111 Stat. 1252) significantly improved the law governing the System, although the financial resources for implementing this law and managing the System remain limited;

(3) by encouraging volunteer programs and donations, and facilitating non-Federal part-

nerships with refuges, Federal funding for the refuges can be supplemented and the System can fully benefit from the amendments made by the National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act of 1997; and

(4) by encouraging refuge educational programs, public awareness of the resources of the System and public participation in the conservation of those resources can be promoted.

(b) PURPOSES.—The purposes of this Act are—

(1) to encourage the use of volunteers to assist the United States Fish and Wildlife Service in the management of refuges within the System;

(2) to facilitate partnerships between the System and non-Federal entities to promote public awareness of the resources of the System and public participation in the conservation of those resources; and

(3) to encourage donations and other contributions by persons and organizations to the System.

SEC. 3. GIFTS TO PARTICULAR NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGES.

Section 7(b)(2) of the Fish and Wildlife Act of 1956 (16 U.S.C. 742f(b)(2)) is amended—

(1) by striking "(2) Any" and inserting the following:

"(2) USE OF GIFTS, DEVISES, AND BEQUESTS.—

"(A) IN GENERAL.—Any"; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

"(B) GIFTS, DEVISES, AND BEQUESTS TO PARTICULAR REFUGES.—

"(i) DISBURSAL.—Any gift, devise, or bequest made for the benefit of a particular national wildlife refuge or complex of geographically related refuges shall be disbursed only for the benefit of that refuge or complex of refuges and without further appropriations.

"(ii) MATCHING.—Subject to the availability of appropriations and the requirements of the National Wildlife Refuge Administration Act of 1966 (16 U.S.C. 668dd et seq.) and other applicable law, the Secretary may provide funds to match gifts, devises, and bequests made for the benefit of a particular national wildlife refuge or complex of geographically related refuges. With respect to each gift, devise, or bequest, the amount of Federal funds may not exceed the amount (or, in the case of property or in-kind services, the fair market value) of the gift, devise, or bequest."

SEC. 4. VOLUNTEER ENHANCEMENT.

(a) PILOT PROJECTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to the availability of appropriations, the Secretary of the Interior shall carry out a pilot project at 2 or more national wildlife refuges or complexes of geographically related refuges in each United States Fish and Wildlife Service region, but not more than 20 pilot projects nationwide.

(2) VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR.—Each pilot project shall provide for the employment of a full-time volunteer coordinator for the refuge or complex of geographically related refuges. The volunteer coordinator shall be responsible for recruiting, training, and supervising volunteers. The volunteer coordinator may be responsible for assisting partner organizations in developing projects and programs under cooperative agreements under section 7(d) of the Fish and Wildlife Act of 1956 (as added by section 5) and coordinating volunteer activities with partner organizations to carry out the projects and programs.

(3) REPORT.—Not later than 3 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the Interior shall submit a report to the Committee on Resources of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Environment and Public Works of the Senate evaluating and making recommendations regarding the pilot projects.

(4) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this subsection \$2,000,000 for each of fiscal years 1999 through 2002.

(b) AWARDS AND RECOGNITION FOR VOLUNTEERS.—Section 7(c)(2) of the Fish and Wildlife Act of 1956 (16 U.S.C. 742f(c)(2)) is amended—

(1) by inserting "awards (including nominal cash awards) and recognition," after "lodging,"; and

(2) by inserting "without regard to their places of residence" after "volunteers".

(c) SENIOR VOLUNTEER CORPS.—Section 7(c) of the Fish and Wildlife Act of 1956 (16 U.S.C. 742f(c)) is amended by striking paragraph (6) and inserting the following:

"(6) SENIOR VOLUNTEER CORPS.—The Secretary of the Interior may establish a Senior Volunteer Corps, consisting of volunteers over the age of 50. To assist in the recruitment and retention of the volunteers, the Secretary may provide for additional incidental expenses to members of the Corps beyond the incidental expenses otherwise provided to volunteers under this subsection. The members of the Corps shall be subject to the other provisions of this subsection."

SEC. 5. COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP ENHANCEMENT.

Section 7 of the Fish and Wildlife Act of 1956 (16 U.S.C. 742f) is amended by adding at the end the following:

"(d) COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP ENHANCEMENT.—

"(1) DEFINITION OF PARTNER ORGANIZATION.—

In this subsection, the term 'partner organization' means an organization that—

"(A) draws its membership from private individuals, organizations, corporations, academic institutions, or State or local governments;

"(B) is established to promote the understanding of, education relating to, and the conservation of the fish, wildlife, plants, and cultural and historical resources of a particular refuge or complex of geographically related refuges; and

"(C) is described in section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and is exempt from taxation under section 501(a) of that Code.

"(2) COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS.—

"(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of the Interior may enter into a cooperative agreement (within the meaning of chapter 63 of title 31, United States Code) with any partner organization, academic institution, or State or local government agency to carry out 1 or more projects or programs for a refuge or complex of geographically related refuges in accordance with this subsection.

"(B) PROJECTS AND PROGRAMS.—Subject to the requirements of the National Wildlife Refuge System Administration Act of 1966 (16 U.S.C. 668dd et seq.) and other applicable law, and such terms and conditions as the Secretary determines to be appropriate, the Secretary may approve projects and programs for a refuge or complex of geographically related refuges that—

"(i) promote the stewardship of resources of the refuge through habitat maintenance, restoration, and improvement, biological monitoring, or research;

"(ii) support the operation and maintenance of the refuge through constructing, operating, maintaining, or improving the facilities and services of the refuge;

"(iii) increase awareness and understanding of the refuge and the National Wildlife Refuge System through the development, publication, or distribution of educational materials and products;

"(iv) advance education concerning the purposes of the refuge and the mission of the System through the use of the refuge as an outdoor classroom and development of other educational programs; or

"(v) contribute financial resources to the refuge, under terms that require that the net revenues be used exclusively for the benefit of the refuge, through donation of net revenues from the sale of educational materials and products and through encouragement of gifts, devises, and bequests.

"(C) FEDERAL FUNDING AND OWNERSHIP.—

"(i) MATCHING.—Subject to the availability of appropriations and the requirements of the National Wildlife Refuge Administration Act of

1966 (16 U.S.C. 668dd et seq.) and other applicable law, the Secretary may provide funds to match non-Federal funds donated under a cooperative agreement under this paragraph. With respect to each project or program, the amount of funds provided by the Secretary may not exceed the amount of the non-Federal funds donated through the project or program.

"(ii) **USE OF FEDERAL FUNDS.**—Any Federal funds used to fund a project or program under a cooperative agreement may be used only for expenses directly related to the project or program and may not be used for operation or administration of any non-Federal entity.

"(iii) **OWNERSHIP OF FACILITIES.**—Any new facility, improvement to an existing facility, or other permanent improvement to a refuge constructed under this subsection shall be the property of the United States Government.

"(D) **TREASURY ACCOUNT.**—Amounts received by the Secretary of the Interior as a result of projects and programs under subparagraph (B) shall be deposited in a separate account in the Treasury. Amounts in the account that are attributable to activities at a particular refuge or complex of geographically related refuges shall be available to the Secretary of the Interior, without further appropriation, to pay the costs of incidental expenses related to volunteer activities, and to carry out cooperative agreements for the refuge or complex of refuges."

SEC. 6. REFUGE EDUCATION PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT.

Section 7 of the Fish and Wildlife Act of 1956 (16 U.S.C. 742f) (as amended by section 5) is amended by adding at the end the following:

"(e) **REFUGE EDUCATION PROGRAM ENHANCEMENT.**—

"(1) **GUIDANCE.**—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this subsection, the Secretary of the Interior shall develop guidance for refuge education programs to further the mission of the National Wildlife Refuge System and the purposes of individual refuges through—

"(A) providing outdoor classroom opportunities for students on national wildlife refuges that combine educational curricula with the personal experiences of students relating to fish, wildlife, and plants and their habitat and to the cultural and historical resources of the refuges;

"(B) promoting understanding and conservation of fish, wildlife, and plants and cultural and historical resources of the refuges; and

"(C) improving scientific literacy in conjunction with both formal and nonformal education programs.

"(2) **REFUGE PROGRAMS.**—Based on the guidance developed under paragraph (1), the Secretary of the Interior may develop or enhance refuge education programs as appropriate, based on the resources of individual refuges and the opportunities available for such programs in State, local, and private schools. In developing and implementing each program, the Secretary should cooperate with State and local education authorities, and may cooperate with partner organizations in accordance with subsection (d)."

SEC. 7. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

Section 7 of the Fish and Wildlife Act of 1956 (16 U.S.C. 742f) (as amended by section 6) is amended by adding at the end the following:

"(f) **AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**—There is authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary of the Interior to carry out subsections (b), (c), (d), and (e) \$2,000,000 for each of fiscal years 1999 through 2004."

Mr. SAXTON (during the reading). Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate amendments be considered as read and printed in the RECORD.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New Jersey?

There was no objection.

Mr. SAXTON. Mr. Speaker, as the author of H.R. 1856, the National Wildlife Refuge Sys-

tem Volunteer and Community Partnership Act, I am pleased to report that the Senate has passed this bill with amendments and returned it to us.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has a very successful program to encourage volunteer activities at National Wildlife Refuges and other Service field stations. Last year, for example, over 25,000 volunteers donated nearly \$11 million worth of services, ranging from staffing visitor centers, to hunter safety classes, and operating heavy equipment.

I introduced H.R. 1856 after a field hearing held near the Edwin B. Forsythe National Wildlife Refuge in my district in New Jersey. That hearing addressed the large maintenance backlog at refuges. We heard from several local volunteer conservation groups who pointed out problems with the existing volunteer program. This bill is intended to solve those problems.

The biggest obstacle to improving the volunteer program is a shortage of staff at refuges. We can't expect refuge employees who have full-time operation and maintenance duties to also donate all of their weekends to working with volunteer groups. H.R. 1856 would address this problem by establishing up to 20 pilot projects for the purpose of hiring full-time volunteer coordinators. This will make it much easier for the Service and conservation groups to work together for the benefit of refuges.

H.R. 1856 also makes it easier for interested individuals and groups to donate money or services to refuges. It would ensure that gifts to a particular refuge will actually go to that refuge, instead of disappearing into a nationwide account.

Finally, the bill allows refuge managers to enter into cooperative agreements with local conservation groups to conduct projects on refuges. Again, these provisions are designed to make it easier for refuge managers to cooperate with local organizations. For example, if a volunteer group were interested in constructing a wildlife observation tower or other improvement at a refuge, this section would allow the refuge manager to contribute materials or staff assistance to the project.

All of these provisions are designed to make it easier for volunteers who are interested in helping to conserve fish and wildlife to contribute their skills and enthusiasm to our National Wildlife Refuges. Over the last two years, Congress and the Administration have significantly increased the resources available to Refuge operations and maintenance. However, even with those increased resources, the use of volunteers who donate their time and energy is still needed to allow the Refuge System to meet its conservation and management goals. By making it easier for them, this bill will enhance an already successful program and ultimately benefit fish and wildlife conservation throughout the National Wildlife Refuge System.

I urge you to agree to clear H.R. 1856, as amended by the Senate, and to send it to the President for signature. Together with the historic National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act of 1997 (P.L. 105-57) and increased funding, this Congress has done more for our National Wildlife Refuge System than any other in the last 30 years.

I urge the House to accept the Senate amendments on H.R. 1856.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the initial request of the gentleman from New Jersey?

There was no objection.

The Senate amendments were concurred in.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SAXTON. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on H.R. 1856, the bill just passed.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New Jersey?

There was no objection.

PERMITTING THE USE OF THE ROTUNDA OF THE CAPITOL FOR PRESENTATION OF CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL TO NELSON ROLIHLEHLA MANDELA

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on House Oversight be discharged from further consideration of the House concurrent resolution (H.Con.Res. 326) permitting the use of the rotunda of the Capitol on September 23, 1998, for the presentation of the Congressional Gold Medal to Nelson Mandela, and I ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the concurrent resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Ohio?

There was no objection.

The Clerk read the concurrent resolution, as follows:

H. CON. RES. 326

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring). That the rotunda of the Capitol is authorized to be used on September 23, 1998, for the presentation of the Congressional Gold Medal to Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela. Physical preparations for the ceremony shall be carried out in accordance with such conditions as the Architect of the Capitol may prescribe.

The concurrent resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

SAND CREEK MASSACRE NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE STUDY ACT OF 1998

Mr. BOB SCHAFFER of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take from the Speaker's table the Senate bill (S. 1695) to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to study the suitability and feasibility of designating the Sand Creek Massacre National Historic Site in the State of Colorado as a unit of the National Park System, and for other purposes, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the Senate bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Colorado?